

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Mar. 25-29, 2013
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What was the first literary society for women at Gallaudet University which later became Phi Kappa Zeta Sorority in 1954.

- a) Bisons
- b) O.W.L.S
- c) The Sorority
- d) The Women's Literary Society of Gallaudet College

Go to the bottom for the answer.

Answer: "b" - The first women's only literary society of Gallaudet University [known as the National Deaf Mute College at the time] was formed during the school year 1891-92 by a group of 13 women led in the effort by Agatha Tiegle and May Martin. The purpose of the society was to study literature, debate important topics, produce original literary works, and engage in tableaux, charades and storytelling. As part of the constitution, the women were sworn to secrecy regarding the actual words that their acronym, O.W.L.S, stood for. In 1954 the O.W.L.S became the Phi Kappa Zeta Sorority which still exists at Gallaudet University. One important mission of PKZ is fundraising in support of the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) of Seattle, Wa.

Read further about the history of the founding of the O.W.L.S in this 1912 article appearing in The Silent Worker Newspaper (Vol. XXV, No. 3, p. 56).

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